



Meeting Date: May 17, 2023

Submitted by: Rob Cascaden, P.Eng – Director, Public Works and Engineering

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Report No: PWE 25-2023

Subject: Hyde Park Road Improvements – South of Ilderton

Recommendation:

THAT Report PWE 25-2023 regarding Hyde Park Road Improvements – South of Ilderton be received;

AND THAT the Improvements to Hyde Park Road be approved as per Appendix A and Appendix B.

Purpose:

To seek Council approval for streetscaping and traffic improvements to Hyde Park Road, south of Ilderton Road entering into the community.

Background:

Staff and Council have received numerous concerns from residents regarding the crosswalk in Ilderton on Hyde Park Road at Heritage Drive. Many of the concerns related to speed along Hyde Park Road from Meadowcreek Drive to Heritage Drive.

Analysis:

Hyde Park Road South of Ilderton Road is a Middlesex County Road. For local residents, this road also serves as the main access road in a picturesque historic settlement area. The sidewalks are busy with residents attending the park, library, medical centre, and commercial enterprises. This County Road also serves as a primary trucking route and provides the fastest and most direct connection to the City of London for road users. These competing road user needs provides for a challenging road design while ensuring safety as the main concern for all users – both pedestrians and vehicles.

This situation is not unique to Middlesex Centre or the County, but reflective of typical road configuration in Ontario. The challenge is to ensure pedestrian safety for settlement areas in which the main road also serves as a brief slow down in what is otherwise a high-speed connector road.

It has been demonstrated and documented that regulatory speed limits on their own do not achieve the desired reduction in speed / compliance through these settlement areas.

To support and help achieve the desired speed reduction along Hyde Park Road in Ilderton several streetscaping measures are proposed. These measures will contribute to the beautification of the streetscape as well as provide a visual queue to drivers that they are entering a location which has active pedestrian traffic and requires a corresponding lower operating speed. This improvement will also serve to visually narrow the road making the roadway feel “tighter” which typically equates to slower operating speeds.

Staff, in working with Middlesex County, have developed a number of proposed improvements to Hyde Park Road primarily around the intersections of Hyde Park Road and Meadowcreek Drive, and Hyde Park Road and Heritage Drive.

The proposed improvements will consist of the following:

- Relocating signs;
- Improved landscaping;
- Low plantings;
- Tree plantings;
- Installation of benches and garbage receptacles; and
- Coordination with Middlesex County to reduce the speed limit on Hyde Park Road to 50km/h south of Meadowcreek Drive.

Concepts of the proposed improvements can be found in Appendix A and B. All proposed locations will be subject to field conditions and may require modifications to ensure operations, maintenance and safety.

This report has been circulated to Middlesex County staff who have not raised any concerns with the proposed work and are supportive of looking at alternative means to achieve more desirable operating speeds.

Financial Implications:

Middlesex County will be responsible and cover all costs associated with relocating the speed limit signs on Hyde Park Road.

The proposed tree plantings are expected to cost approximately \$2,800.00 and will be funded from the tree planting operating budget.

The purposed bench and garbage receptacle installation are expected to cost approximately \$7,500 and will be funded from the traffic calming budget.

The purposed landscaping and low planting installations are expected to cost \$8,000 and will be funded from the clean and green fund.

The rail trail, trail head signage will be covered under the approved traffic signs operating budget.

The sign relocations can be covered under the approved operating budget.

Maintenance costs associated with implementation of enhancements along Hyde Park Road can be absorbed into the existing operating budget.

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Responsive Municipal Government

This aligns with Councils strategic plan by being responsive and engaged with Middlesex County and looking for opportunities to collaborate on road safety improvements and supporting improvements to alternative transportation modes.

Attachments:

Appendix A – Hyde Park Road at Meadowcreek Drive

Appendix B – Hyde Park Road at Heritage Drive